

REMARKS

Applicants hereby amend Claims 1 and 5, and add new Claims 6-22. In view of the following discussion, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of Claims 1-5, consideration of new Claims 6-22, and submit that all of said claims are in condition for allowance.

As to the informalities noted in the Office Action, Applicants hereby amend the specification to include the required cross-reference to the provisional application from which the present application claims priority. According to MPEP Sec. 201.11 and in particular page 200-64 of the 8th Edition, Revision 2, May 2004 as published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, a specific petition to enter this Amendment is not required since this information was included on the filing receipt.

As to the Inventors' Declaration, the undersigned is in the process of obtaining a Supplemental Declaration from the inventors. In view of the additional claims being added hereby, the undersigned has deferred obtaining such Declaration pending the filing of this Response to also allow for inclusion of a reference to these claims.

As to paragraph 5 of the Office Action, further comment as to this paragraph is not required.

As to the claim rejection, Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over El-Ibiary in view of Smith. Further, Claim 5 is rejected over the combination of these two references and further in view of the Milek patent. Applicants respectfully submit that both independent Claims 1 and 5 are patentably distinguishable from the prior art and provide further comments in this regard.

More particularly as to Claim 1, Claim 1 defines that the method of the invention includes providing a temperature data collector which is manually movable within the facility. The temperature data collection procedure as claimed comprises the steps of manually transporting the temperature data collector within the facility to an equipment location proximate the

rotating the equipment and manually positioning the temperature sensor adjacent to the sensing location. After storing the data, the data collection procedure includes the step of removing the temperature data sensor from the equipment location wherein this entire data collection procedure is repeated periodically over time at periodic intervals by manually transporting and returning the temperature data collector to the equipment location and repositioning the temperature sensor adjacent to the sensor locations. This further highlights that the temperature data collector is transported from one location to another through the facility to collect data and store data. This method as claimed is not disclosed, taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

More particularly as to El-Ibiary, it is noted that El-Ibiary has a plurality of sensors, at least one for each piece of equipment which are all interconnected as a system so that the multiple sensors send multiple readings back to the processor 10. Notably each local transmitter connected to the sensors has a unique electronic identifier or address thus indicating that this system must be able to use multiple sensors, each being independently identifiable from other sensors. As seen in Figure 3, the entire sensor assembly is permanently affixed to the equipment housing by bolts 40.

Therefore, El-Ibiary discloses multiple sensors at multiple locations which is a distinctly different system from Applicants' claimed invention.

As to the Smith patent, this patent fails to cure the deficiencies of El-Ibiary.

More particularly it is noted that the monitor device is affixed to a grease fitting of a bearing housing. This sensor device further includes a grease path extending therethrough to allow greasing of the equipment which therefore indicates this sensor device continuously remains in place during operation of the equipment. Further, Smith discloses that the sensors are adapted to constantly send respective signals to

receivers. As such, no data collector is provided in Smith which data collector would be manually transported throughout the facility for detecting operating conditions of multiple pieces of equipment.

Hence, Smith is similar to El-Ibiary in that they both only disclose individual sensing units, one sensing unit being provided for each piece of equipment and each sensing location on a piece of equipment. This distinctly differs from Applicants' claimed arrangement where the temperature data collector is manually transported and positioned for detecting a temperature data which data collector is then transported to and from other locations in the facility. Hence, independent Claim 1 is believed in condition for allowance.

For these reasons alone original dependent Claims 2-4 and added dependent Claims 6-10 also are allowable. These dependent Claims further define additional features which are not disclosed, taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

For example, Claims 2 and 3 essentially define that the data collection procedure and the positioning of the sensor are done at time intervals. This is therefore believed further distinguishable from the El-Ibiary and Smith which only disclose continuous monitoring.

Still further, Claim 6 highlights that the remote processing station is separate from the rotating equipment and the data collector is transported between the equipment and the processor station. Claim 7 defines that the data collection procedure includes the step of manually relocating the temperature data collector to the processing station. As discussed above, El-Ibiary and Smith do not transport the sensors anywhere after installation much less to a location where a processor might be located. Claim 9 further defines that the temperature data collector is a handheld unit comprising the sensor and storage unit which are disposed within the handheld unit. Claim 10 defines that a plurality of the units of rotating equipment are provided wherein the temperature data collector is moved from one equipment

location to a next equipment location during the temperature data collection procedure. El-Ibiary and Smith do not disclose transporting a data collector device from one location to another and in fact, such would not occur since each equipment location already includes a sensor and transmitter.

For the foregoing reasons, all of Claims 1-4 and 6-10 are believed in condition for allowance.

As to independent Claim 5, this claim also is amended for clarity and to further highlight that the temperature data collector is manually moveable within the facility by an operator wherein the temperature sensor thereof is manually positionable by the operator to detect the surface temperatures of the rotating equipment. The data collection procedure includes the steps of manually transporting the temperature data collector within the facility to an equipment location proximate each said unit of the rotating equipment and manually positioning the temperature sensor adjacent to the sensing locations on the rotating equipment. This data collection procedure is repeated at periodic time intervals by manually transporting and returning the data collector to the equipment location and then repositioning the temperature sensor adjacent to the sensing locations. Thereafter, the temperature sensor is removed from the equipment location by manually moving the temperature data collector to another location in the facility.

As discussed above, El-Ibiary and Smith only disclose individual fixed sensors on each piece of equipment being detected which distinctly differs from Applicants' claimed arrangement. Accordingly, independent Claim 5 as well as added dependent Claims 11-14 are in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 11-14 also define additional features which are not disclosed, taught or suggested by the applied prior art and the remaining art of record. For example, Claims 11 and 12 further define the position of a processing station which is separate from the rotating equipment wherein

the temperature data is transferred from the data storage unit to the processing station. Claim 13 defines the data collector as a handheld unit, wherein these features further distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art of record.

For the foregoing reasons, dependent Claim 6 and Claims 11-14 are believed allowable.


Also, Applicants hereby add independent Claim 15 as well as new dependent Claims 16-22. Claim 15 defines a data collector as being manually positionable wherein the data collection procedure involves transporting the collector to an equipment location proximate each said unit of said rotating equipment being monitor and manually removing the data collector from each location after obtaining the temperature data. This data collection procedure is repeated at subsequent collection times to detect and store the temperature data. Thus, as discussed above, El-Ibiary and Smith do not disclose this arrangement since they only involve fixed sensors on each piece of equipment. Dependent Claims 16-22 further define the invention and are believed to be further distinguishable from the prior art.

For example, Claim 19 defines that one sensor is used for detecting a plurality of sensing location. Claim 20 defines a sensor as being a portable sensor which is manually directed toward each sensing location. Claim 21 defines the data collection procedure as including positioning the temperature sensor at a plurality of the equipment locations corresponding to a plurality of units. El-Ibiary and Smith do not disclose using a single sensor which is positioned at a plurality of equipment locations for detecting a plurality of units of the rotating equipment. Based upon the foregoing, Claims 15-22 are also believed allowable.

As for Milek, this patent fails to cure the deficiencies of the above discussed references.

In view of the foregoing, further in favorable consideration of this application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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